

# Women Veterans Enrolled in the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry (AHOBPR)

Exposures and Self-Reported Cardiovascular Condition

**Women Veterans**, particularly minority women Veterans, may be more susceptible to cardiovascular diseases due to exposure to airborne hazards while deployed.



**Fast Facts**

- > Women Veterans currently make up **10% of the Veteran population** and are the **fastest-growing group**.
- > **Heart disease** is the **leading cause of death for women** in the United States.
- > Research has found that **air pollution exposure** can increase the risk of **cardiovascular conditions**.

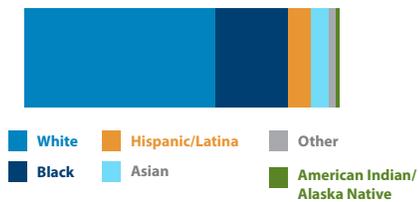
## Demographics of Women in the Registry



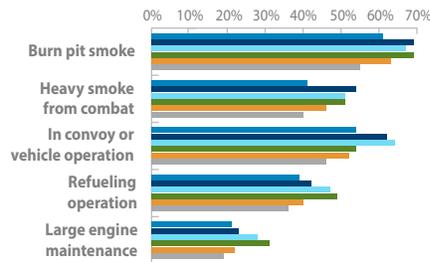
Avg. age:  
**43** y/o

Women make up **11%** of registry participants.

These demographics reflect the general Veteran population.



## Exposures Self-Reported by Women Veterans



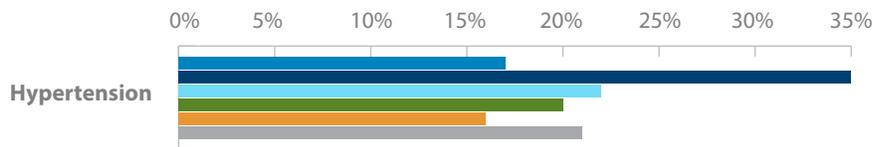
An average of **63%** of women Veterans in the registry reported **exposure to burn pits**.

**Black women Veterans** reported about **2x** the amount of time exposed to heavy smoke from combat than White women Veterans.

## Women Veterans Self-Reported Cardiovascular Condition



**Hypertension** was the **most reported** cardiovascular condition among all women. Other cardiovascular conditions were infrequently reported.



Black women Veterans in the AHOBPR report more hypertension than other women Veterans. Having hypertension increases the risk for heart disease and stroke, which are leading causes of death in the United States.



If you are a Veteran who has been exposed to airborne hazards, discuss those exposures and any cardiovascular conditions you may be experiencing with your clinician.

Learn more at:

- <https://www.warrelatedillness.va.gov/WARRELATEDILLNESS/AHBPCE/index.asp>
- <https://www.womenshealth.va.gov/topics/heart-health.asp>